

Message Text

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17
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 270633Z SEP 76
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2125
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
FBIS OKINAWA
CINCPAC

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CINCPEU FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT CH
SUBJECT: OCTOBER RED FLAG ARTICLE UNDERSCORES TRANSITIONAL TONE

SUMMARY: WHILE PEKING IS MOST LIKELY CONTINUING TO SORT OUT
THE COMPOSITION OF THE POST MAO POLITICAL STRUCTURE, THE CHINESE
MEDIA CONTINUES TO REFLECT LEADERSHIP STATEMENTS MADE DURING THE
SEPT. 10-18 MOURNING PERIOD WITH THE EARLY RELEASE OF THE
OCTOBER RED FLAG'S LEAD ARTICLE. THE CHIH HENG ARTICLE
CAREFULLY BLENDS ACTIVIST POLITICAL THEMES WITH A GENERAL CALL
TO RALLY CLOSELY AROUND THE PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE SUGGESTING

THAT THE LEADERSHIP IS SEEKING TO AVOID ANTANGONIZING INFLUENTIAL

ELEMENTS OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM. END SUMMARY.

1. REPRINTED IN THE SEPT. 25 PEOPLE'S DAILY AND YESTERDAY
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IN THE LOCAL PRC-CONTROLLED WEN WEI PAO, CHIH HENG'S ARTICLE,

"MAO TSE-TUNG THOUGHT WILL FOREVER GUIDE US FORWARD," IS A CAREFUL CATALOGING OF MAO'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARXISM-LENINISM. DOWNSIZING THAT THE LATE CHAIRMAN WAS THE GREATEST MARXIST OF THE CONTEMPORARY ERA, THE AUTHOR RECALLS HOW MAO "CORRECTLY" POINTED OUT THAT THE TARGET OF THE REVOLUTION IS THE BOURGEOISIE AND ESPECIALLY "THOSE PERSONS IN THE PARTY TAKING THE CAPITALIST ROAD," BUT STOPS SHORT OF LINKING SUCH ACTIVIST SLOGANS WITH THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP.

2. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, THE ARTICLE APPEARS TO INTERPRET MAO'S VAGUE BEHEST, "ACT ACCORDING TO PRINCIPLES LAID DOWN BY CALLING FOR:

--"REDOUBLING" EFFORTS IN STUDYING MARXISM-LENINISM-MAO TSE-TUNG THOUGHT AS THE "BEST WAY" TO CARRY OUT HIS BEHEST AND HONOR HIS MEMORY;

--FAITHFULLY CARRYING ON AND COURAGEOUSLY DEFENDING MAO'S THEORY OF "CONTINUING REVOLUTION";

--ADHERING TO MAO'S "REVOLUTIONARY LINE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS" (WHICH INCLUDES CONTINUED HOSTILITY TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION AND LIMITED DETENTE WITH THE UNITED STATES.);

--CONTINUING TO DEEPEN CRITICISM OF TENG HSIAO-PING'S "THREE POISONOUS WEEKS"--HIS GENERAL PROGRAM, OUTLINE REPORT, AND SERIES OF REGULATIONS.

3. ALTHOUGH THE ARTICLE APPEARS TO BE A BIT LEFTIST IN TONE, UNDERSCORING MAO'S ACTIVIST CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHINESE REVOLUTION, CHIH HENG CONCLUDES BY REPEATING THE CALL FOR THE NATION TO "CLOSELY RALLY AROUND THE CCP'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND MARCH FORWARD IN THE DIRECTION INDICATED BY CHAIRMAN MAO." IN ADDITION, WHILE WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE OTHER RED FLAG ARTICLES, THE TITLES IN THE TABLE OF CONTENTS APPEAR TO BALANCE THIS ARTICLE'S MORE REVOLUTIONARY SUBJECT MATTER WITH STATEMENTS BY MODEL UNIT FONG HOW TO CARRY FORWARD THE MAOIST LINE IN AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY, AND ARMY BUILDING. THIS BLEND OF POLITICAL ACTIVISM WITH THE MORE CONTROLLED EMPHASIS ON STUDENTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND THE PURSUIT OF ESTABLISHED POLICY REFLECTS STATEMENTS DURING THE SERVICES FOR THE LATE CHAIRMAN AND SUGGESTS THAT THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP IS SEEKING TO AVOID OPEN DISAGREEMENT OVER POLICY ISSUES WHILE THE POST-MAO LEADERSHIP IS BEING SORTED OUT.
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